

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NASA/I/LFHANOLD:SIW
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:RGMORRIS
NASA/I/BMZOOK
NASA/SB/DLWINTER (IN DRAFT)
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OES/NET/IM:CLEDISKY (SUBS)
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SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
(04.05.02) K206 EXPERIMENT

REF: HANOLD/GOSNELL JUNE 17 TELCON

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DR. DAVID WINTER,
US CO-CHAIRMAN WORKING GROUP ON SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE,
TO HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART, DR. NIKOLAI GUROVSKY, WITH A
COPY TO INTERCOSMOS.

2. JUNE 20, 1977 (04.05.02)
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DR. NIKOLAI N. GUROVSKY
CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET WORKING
GROUP ON SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
THIRD MAIN ADMINISTRATION

U.S.S.R. MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.

DEAR DR. GUROVSKY:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU OF A CHANGE IN THE SPECIFIC MATERIALS TO BE USED AS NEUTRON DETECTORS IN THE US PART OF EXPERIMENT K206 AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR DELIVERY TO THE USSR AND RETURN TO THE US.

PREVIOUSLY WE IDENTIFIED TWO FISSION FOILS, URANIUM AND NEPTUNIUM, TO BE USED AS NEUTRON DETECTORS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THE NEPTUNIUM FOIL. WE PLAN TO SUBSTITUTE THORIUM (TH-232) WHICH, ALONG WITH URANIUM (U-238) AND TWO NON-RADIOACTIVE FOILS, BISMUTH-209 AND TANTALUM-181, WILL FUNCTION AS NEUTRON DETECTORS.

US REGULATIONS GOVERNING RADIONUCLIDE MATERIALS REQUIRE EXPORT AND IMPORT LICENSES. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THESE LICENSES WE REQUIRE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FROM YOU OF OUR VERBAL UNDERSTANDING OF SEPTEMBER 1976 THAT THE ENTIRE US 25 PERCENT OF THE K206 PACKAGE CONTAINING THESE MATERIALS, AS DELIVERED TO THE USSR, WILL BE RETURNED TO THE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING RECOVERY OF THE BIOLOGICAL SATELLITE.

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WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE US EMBASSY CONTACT ACADEMICIAN GAZENKO ON THIS MATTER.

IN ADDITION, WE REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE USSR CLEARANCES FOR THE K206 PACKAGE TO ENTER THE USSR ON JUNE 26, AND TO LEAVE THE USSR AFTER RECOVERY OF THE SATELLITE.

THE QUANTITIES OF THESE RADIONUCLIDE MATERIALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

U-238, LESS THAN 1 GRAM, APPROXIMATELY 0.5 MICROCURIE
TH-232, LESS THAN 1.5 GRAMS, APPROXIMATELY 0.1 MICROCURIE.

BEST REGARDS,

DAVID L. WINTER, M.D.
NASA DIRECTOR FOR LIFE SCIENCES

CC: INTERCOSMOS

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